Map of the Northern Part of the Punjab and of Kashmir

1846

Surveys of
G.T. Vigne, Esq.,
Captain C. Wade,
Lieuts. J. Anderson and
H.M. Durand

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Map of the Northern Part of the Punjab and of Kashmir

Map of the Northern Part of the Punjab and of Kashmir, also of the frontiers of Ladak and Little Tibet: compiled from the Surveys of G.T. Vigne, Esq., Captain C. Wade, Lieuts. J. Anderson and H.M. Durand ... by J. Walker. Engraved by J. & C. Walker. Published by John Walker, Geographer to the East India Company, March 30th. 1846.

by

Walker, John;
Vigne, G. T.;
Snderson, J.;
Wade, C.;
Durand, H. M.

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Engraved outline color map on sheet 98x68, with inset: and in the lower part covers Punjab, with inset map ".

Engraved outline color map on sheet 98x68, dissected and folded into red embossed covers with title "Kashmir Punjab &C." in gold on front cover. Map centered on the Vale of Kashmir, divided by colored lines into Himalayan uplands of Kashmir and Ladak and in the lower part covers Punjab, with inset map "Sketch map of countries north of Iskardo and Ladak". Map labels roads, trails, mountain passes, cities, villages forts and mountain ranges. Includes annotations from explorers on the nature of the terrain, vegetation, geology and sources of great rivers. Relief shown by hachures. Notes on the map from Alex Johnson: "An exceedingly rare, large format map published by for the private use of the East India Company directors and senior civil and military officials depicting Northern Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir as well as great arch of the Western Himalayas, predicated upon the very best available sources, created just as the British were gaining victory during the First Anglo-Sikh War; the map was a vital tool in Britain's successful quest to gain mastery over North-western India; the present example owned by Johann Detleff Prochnow, a prominent missionary and explorer operating the Himalayas. Copper engraving with original outline hand colour, dissected into 30 sections and mounted upon original linen, folding into original red cloth covers with Greek Key blindstamped borders and gilt-debossed title, manuscript owner's inscription of "J.D. Prochnow" [Johann Detleff Prochnow] in ink to front endpaper (Excellent condition, map clean and crisp, just some very slight marginal wear to covers), 98 x 67.5 cm (38.5 x 67.5 inches). This important and impressive map was issued on the orders of the directors of the East India Company (EIC) for high-level official use in the immediate wake of the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-6). During this conflict, which occurred within the context of the 'Great Game' (Britain's cold war with Russia over control of the heart of Asia), Britain and the once mighty Sikh Empire, which controlled the Punjab and the Kashmir, came to blows. Britain ended up defeating the Sikhs and gaining control of Kashmir and the Bist Doab, the prosperous area southeast of the Sikh capital, the great city of Lahore. From that point onwards, Britain would continue to apply further pressure on the Sikh Empire, until finally vanquishing it and annexing its lands during the Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-9). The map was issued by the EIC's official geographer John Walker in London to not only show the theatre of the First Anglo-Sikh War but to give senior officials an idea of the territories they hoped to conqueror or otherwise control in the near future (the map was printed on March 30, 1846, before news of the end of

the war had reached London, but after initial British victories made Whitehall reasonably confident of victory). While the map is composite work, with a very diverse quality of geographic coverage, it importantly brings together the very best available sources on the mapping of the Northern Punjab, Kashmir and as the adjacent Himalayan region together in a single map for the first time, including new intelligence fresh from the battle theatre. The great rarity of the map – the present offering seems to be 1 of only 2 known examples – is due the fact that it was a private issue reserved for the use of high-level officials (i.e. British politicians, EIC Directors and military officers); there is no evidence that it was offered for sale on the public market. Walker would have executed only a very small print run, and the survival rate of such large maps is very low. The present example of the map belonged to Johann Detelff Prochnow, one of the most important Protestant missionaries in India through the 1840s and '50s, as well as an explorer of the Western Himalayas, who resided in in Kothgar, near Shimla. He was likely able to obtain an example of the map from one of his many contacts in the EIC hierarchy. The map is divided into Punjab (generally fertile lowlands) and the Himalayan uplands (Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, etc.) by coloured lines that run across the scene about a third of the way up from the bottom (pink borders Punjab, while green borders the Himalayan zone). The map embraces a considerable amount of territory, extending from just below 31°N to just below 38°N latitude, and from 72°E to 79°E longitude. Roughly centred on the Vale of Kashmir, it embraces the Punjab down as far as Ferozepur and Ludhiana, and extends as far north as the Pamirs in what is today Tajikistan; the map ranges, in the west from Attock (the northernmost tip of Punjab) as far east as part of what it today Himachal Pradesh, with the key hill station of Shimla (the future 'summer capital' the British Raj), being located in the lower right corner. The map is a composite of the best available sources, created before any part of the region was subject to systematic trigonometric surveys. It shows that some areas were reasonably well known to the British, while others were still complete enigmas; consequently, some parts of the map are impressively accurate, while other places are products of conjecture, or event left blank. The map labels innumerable roads, trails, mountain passes, cities, villages and forts, while some mountain ranges are expressed through hachures, while others are faint conjectural lines. The map features many fascinating annotations from explores on the nature of the terrain, its vegetation, geology and the mysterious sources of great rivers. The depiction of the Vale of Kashmir is quite well formed, while the depiction of the Himalayan areas beyond is less precise, based on fragmentary intelligence collected during various exploring expeditions. Much of the information on the montane regions was compiled by Godfrey Vigne (1801-63), an extraordinary Early Victorian figure. Educated at Harrow, before training as a lawyer at Lincoln's Inn, he gained fame as a professional cricket player. However, bored with aristocratic life in England, in 1831 he travelled to Persia and then India. From 1835 to 1838, he extensively explored Kashmir and Ladakh, making numerous sketch maps, including of the Vale of Kashmir's mountain passes. Vigne also made a politically consequential trip to Afghanistan. His memoirs of his time in Asia were published as Travels in Kashmir, Ladak, Iskardo, the countries

adjoining the mountain-course of the Indus, and the Himalaya, north of the Panjab, 2 vols. (London, 1842), accompanied by large map, of which we will discuss later. Vigne, in turn based much of his information on the Himalayan region from the excellent maps from the expedition of William Moorcroft (1767-1825), a famed veterinarian and equestrian and who between 1819 and 1825 travelled through what it today Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Kashmir, Peshawar, Afghanistan and Bokhara (Uzbekistan), in search of fine Central Asian horses for the use of the East India Company. Moorcroft's cartographer was the youthful, but exceedingly talented, George Trebeck (1800-25), who made some of the finest expedition sketch maps ever made in India or Central Asia. While both men sadly perished during the mission, their papers and maps were safely delivered to Calcutta, where then were disseminated to the right people and later, in part, published. John Arrowsmith notably created a fine overview map of Moorcroft and Trebeck's discoveries, Himalayan provinces of Hindustan and the Panjab, in Ladakh and Kashmir; in Peshawar, Kabul, Kunduz, and Bokhara (1841). The depiction of the Punjab, the fertile lowlands below the Himalayas, is derived from several recent, high quality sources. The great river systems (Punjab means the "Land of Five Waters" referring to the rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej and Beas) is, in good part, derived from Captain Claude Wade's map Indus and Punjab Rivers (1833). Wade was a diplomat and explorer, who maintained stellar relations with the Sikh court of Ranjt Singh, which allowed him the opportunity to map much of the Punjab. The coverage of the Punjab's main transport corridors, densely packed with cities and villages connected by roads, running diagonally from the southeast to the northwest, from 'Lodeana' (Ludhiana) through Lahore to 'Kuller Kahar' (Kallar Kahar), is largely derived from the itinerary surveys conducted by Lieutenants John Anderson (1810-57) and Henry Durand (1812-71), the official cartographers of the Army of the Indus, the massive British force that traversed the Punjab on their way to invade Afghanistan in 1838-9. However, as will be discussed later, the coverage of the area features many important new details mapped by British officials and soldiers in the years since. The cartographic inset in the upper left corner of the composition showcases the vast region extending from Skardu (today in Pakistani Kashmir) up and over the Karakorum Range as far as Kashgar (today in Xinjiang, China). The Story Behind the Map's Publication In 1841, When George Vigne returned to London from his decade of travels in India, Persia and Central Asia, he procced to write his grand memoir of his travels. Vigne, a high-society figure was personal friends with many of the EIC Directors, who were naturally eager to learn from Vigne's experiences. It seems that the directors put Vigne in touch with John Walker (1787 - 1873), the Official Geographer to the East India Company. Walker, a partner in the firm of J. & C. Walker, was a prominent figure in the British cartography scene; he was also the official chart engraver for the Admiralty. Vigne and Walker worked together to fashion a grand map of Northern Punjab, Kashmir and the Western Himalayan region from the excellent sources described above. The EIC agreed to pay for the publication of the map, entitled Map of Kashmir with its passes; Ladak & Little Tibet, the mountain course of the Indus and the Alpine Punjab generally taken principally from the MSS. Surveys of G.T. Vigne, Esqr.

F.G.S., which was issued loose within a pocket in the back of the first volume of Vigne's 1842 memoirs. Please view a scan of the Vigne-Walker map from the collection of the American Geographical Society at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee: https://collections.lib.uwm.edu Vigne and Walker's work was a masterpiece of frontier cartography that revealed the general geographic nature of the Northern Punjab and Kashmir for the first time on a single map, as well as giving a fragmentary, yet valuable, depiction of the Western Himalayan region beyond. It was an excellent starting point for further discovery. However, by the time of the First Anglo-Sikh War, the EIC Directors urgently needed better information on the geography of the Northern Punjab; the British territories immediately to the west; as well as the territory between the Punjab and Kashmir. This information was vital for planning where to station and deploy troops; where to set up headquarters of civil administration; and where to fund infrastructure (road and bridge building) projects; and, of course, were to draw future political boundaries. The depiction of the areas that were the theatre of the First AngloSikh War, taking up roughly the southern third of the Vigne map, were now seen as inadequate for the director's requirements. As they hoped that the war was concluding int their favour, the directors commissioned Walker to provide them with an improved map. The Vigne map was an excellent piece of cartography, and Walker still possessed the original copperplate, which remained the legal property of the EIC. As there were very few new discoveries in the region that made of the upper two thirds of the map (Kashmir and northwards), to create the new and improved map Walker decided to use the Vigne plate, but to rework its lower third. In converting the Vigne map into the present work, beyond the fact that Walker changed and moved the title from the lower-left to the upper right, the map shows revisions in the lower third of the map that are so extensive as to make the resulting work an entirely new and different map. To begin with, in what is today Himachal Pradesh and western Kashmir (below Ladakh), which are shown in only the vaguest forms on Vigne's map, have been extensively filled in with fresh information, gained both from a more detailed study of Moorcroft and Trebeck's maps, as well as very recent mapping conducted by the Indian Army. While much more surveying would need to occur, the present map ensures that these areas are no longer enigmas. Importantly, the present map features a wealth of new new information on the main settlement corridors of Northern Punjab; the main rivers and key roads are now showcased in great detail, along with the precise placement of hundreds of villages that were not present on Vigne's map. This area was and would continue to be the main theatre of the Anglo-Sikh conflict, and senior administrators and army officers would have considered it mapping to be of vital importance. Notably, the present map shows that London was by this time well aware of the key British victory over the Sikhs at Ferozeshah (December 21-22, 1845), which is engraved just below the middle of the bottom neatline (near the British cantonment of Ferozepore. The map also features information on travel corridors between the Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. Importantly, the present map would have been critically useful during the interbellum period, as well as during the Second Anglo-Sikh War whereby the EIC conquered all the Punjab, adding the final

large Indian jewel to the British imperial crown. Curiously, one will notice that the map features only a partial left-hand neatline, while some incomplete portions of words are engraved entering the map in the upper left. These details were present on the original Vigne plate and remained unchanged in the publication of the present map. To be clear, the present map is complete as issued; however, for reasons unknown, it seems that Walker may have once considered making the plate into part of a map that extended further westwards but, for reasons unknown, abandoned the project. The present map would not be generally superseded until teams of the Great Trigonometrical Survey (GTS) under William Johnson completed advanced scientific systematic surveys of Northern Punjab all the way to Attock in 1854. Kashmir would be revealed in its full modern geographical form following the surveys conducted by Captain Thomas George Montgomerie between 1857 and 1860, an endeavour that is rightly considered to be one of the greatest technical feats of surveying of the 19th Century. The Provenance of the Present Map: Johann Prochnow – Missionary and Explorer in the Himalayas The present example of the map bears the manuscript owner's inscription inside the front cover of "J.D. Prochnow", being Reverend Dr. Johann Detleff Prochnow (1814 - 1888), one of the most prominent Protestant missionaries in the Himalayan regions of India, as well as an acclaimed explorer. After being accused by the authorities in his native Prussia of 'anti-government activities', Prochnow travelled to India in 1840 to join the Gossner Missionary Society. He later joined the Himalayan chapter of the leading British Protestant organisation in India, the Christian Missionary Society (CMS), eventually becoming its director. Based in in Kotghar (labelled on the present map as 'Kotghur' in the lower right corner), Prochnow extensively explored the Western Himalayas, on long, dangerous high-altitude treks in search of villages that might be receptive to his religious message. While many EIC officers viewed missionaries with great scepticism, Prochnow was well-liked and highly respected by the authorities in India. His close connections and 'street cred' as an explorer would have allowed him to obtain the present map, which was otherwise not publicly available. Prochnow would have been intensely interested in the map, as it not only showed his base region in amazing new detail, but it revealed new horizons for possible missionary activity in Kashmir and the Punjab (although these largely Muslim regions would never be particularly receptive to missionaries). Prochnow, who returned to Germany in 1858, was also a fine author who wrote valuable memoirs of his time in India as well as analysis of the Hindi language. A Note of Rarity Befitting such a large map issued in a small print run for a high-level private consumption, the present map is exceedingly rare. We can trace only a single institutional example, at the British Library. We cannot trace a sales record for another example since a listing in a 1905 Arthur Probsthain catalogue. Historical Context: The British Conquest North-western India The Directors of the East India Company commissioned the present map at a critical juncture during a transformative decade (1839-49) of British aggression and expansion in the Indian Subcontinent. By 1818, the EIC, upon vanquishing the Maratha Confederacy, controlled almost all of India (either directly or via allied 'princely states'). The last major region of the Subcontinent not under their control was the Northwest and the far north, including

Baluchistan, the Sindh, Punjab, Kashmir and Jammu. The Punjab was the heart of the Sikh Empire (1799-1849), a powerful and culturally sophisticated state ruled by Maharajah Ranjit Singh, a strong and wise leader, backed by the Khalsa, a modern Western-trained army. The Sikhs recently conquered Kashmir and were allied with the British. Since 1820, Jammu had been ruled by Raja Gulab Singh, of the Hindu Dogra Dynasty, likewise a British ally. The Sindh was ruled by the Talpur Dynasty, a Shia regime that had been in power since 1783. Baluchistan, a wild transitional area between India and Persia, was controlled by several tribal kingdoms. Through the 1820s, the EEC felt little motivation to expand their power beyond the Sutlej (the river the Punjab than marked the Anglo-Sikh boundary). Both the Sikhs and the Dogra were reliable and strong allies, while the entities beyond were too remote to be considered troublesome. Things began to change in the 1830s, due to two mutually reinforcing factors. First, the East India Company, a commercial enterprise, found the costs of the civil administration of the subcontinent to be unexpectedly burdensome. While some provinces such as Bengal were highly profitable, much of India was a financial drain on the Company's coffers. Punjab, the 'Breadbasket of India' was an immensely wealthy land, anchored by the great cultural and commercial centre of Lahore. Many key figures came to believe that the British Empire in India would not be complete without the Punjab which had the ability to export food across the subcontinent, while providing millions of rupees annually to the EIC Treasury. Second, Russia was aggressively conquering parts of the Caucuses and Central Asia, and many came to believe that St. Petersburg's ultimate goal to make a run on India. Encouraged by jingoistic writers, many officials in Calcutta and London were becoming downright paranoid, and by the early 1830s the Anglo-Russian rivalry was deemed the 'Great Game'. However, the Russian term for the showdown, the 'Torment of Shadows' was perhaps more apt, as the contest was largely a 'cold war', fueled by overreactions to rumors, as opposed to genuine threats to India. In any event, the mere missive of any Russian action anywhere in Asia, sent British officials into a frenzy, often motivating them to pursue extreme measures totally out of proportion to the matter at hand. In this climate, the Northwest of India and, by extension, Afghanistan, was seen as the firewall protecting India from Russian aggression. Of course, it also must be recognized that some EIC officials who merely wanted Britain to conquer all of India (but privately though the Great Game to be silly), cynically wound up their 'Russia-paranoid' colleagues in support of their expansionist objectives. Russian interference in Afghanistan during the Persian Siege of Herat (1837-8) convinced the Great Game 'hawks' that Russia was poised to take over Afghanistan, and that they would be upon the gates of India in short order. This motivated the EIC to mount the breathtakingly stupid invasion of Afghanistan in the what became known as the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-42). This venture resulted in what is often described as worst defeat in the history of the British Empire, highlighted by the fact that only a single soldier from the British garrison in Kabul made it home alive. The British failure to take Afghanistan, far from discouraging further aggression, heightened the EIC's desire to conquer the Northwest of India, as the Sindh and the Punjab were seen as the Subcontinent's last lines of defense. The British made short work of the

Sindh, toppling the Talpur Dynasty and annexing the province in 1843. This gave them control of the mouths of the Indus and great seaport of Karachi. Meanwhile, the state of play had radically changed in the Sikh Empire. The death of Ranjit Singh created a power vacuum, as the country was ruled by rapid succession of incompetent, weak, debauched and eventually adolescent leaders. The powerful Khalsa army became listless, as the once formidable British ally became a rogue state that was a danger to itself and a liability to Britain (especially if the Russians ever appeared at the Khyber Pass). This played into the hands of the expansionists in the EIC hierarchy who coveted the green fields and wealthy merchant towns of the Punjab. Indeed, many British officials and military commanders had been given a chance to view this valuable country first-hand as their troops were stationed there during the late Afghan War. The exact causes of the what became known as the First Anglo-Sikh War (December 11, 1845 – March 9, 1846) are still a matter of debate. It seems that the British instigated the conflict and even bribed several Sikh commanders to sabotage their own cause before and during the conflict. In any event, on December 11, 1845 the Khalsa, having been provoked by the EIC, invaded British territory, crossing the Sutlej River and attacking that key British cantonment of Ferozepore. The British initially had great difficulty containing the situation, and the Sikh army made its way some miles into British territory until the two sides met at the Battle of Ferozeshah (December 21-22, 1845). Here the British won a victory that halted the Sikh invasion, even though the messy and chaotic performance of the British forces led many to question its 'match fitness'. The British went on to invade the Sikh Punjab, winning the Battle of Aliwal (January 28, 1846) and the decisive Battle of Sobraon (February 10,1846), during which the main Sikh Army was crushed. The British then marched into Lahore, where they demanded a hard bargain. At the Treaty of Lahore (March 9, 1846), the British demanded that the Sikhs surrender the Bist Doab (labelled on the present map as the 'Doab of Baree'), a precious strip of territory between the Sutlej and Beas Rivers. They also required that the Sikhs pay Britain an indemnity of 15 million gold rupees, a sum so high as be unpayable. In lieu of clearing the debt, the British compelled the Sikhs to surrender Kashmir. This left the British with a geostrategic chokehold on the ailing Sikh state, as they now controlled the territory leading to the gates of Lahore, as well as the Himalayan highlands above the Punjabi plains. At the Treaty of Amritsar (March 16, 1846), the British sold Kashmir to Gulab Singh, the ruler of Jammu, for 7.5 million rupees. This refilled the EIC's sorely depleted treasury and transferred the expensive future responsibilities of governing a vast Himalayan territory to a diehard British ally. The British spent the next two years meddling in the affairs of the ailing Sikh Empire, which provoked the Second Anglo-Sikh War (April 18, 1848 – March 30, 1849). During that conflict the British utterly vanquished the Sikhs, dissolving their empire and annexing the Punjab to British India. While some peripheral areas of the subcontinent were still to be conquered, Britain had now completed the task of controlling all of India, an achievement that had eluded all the other historical empires that had attempted the same.
References: British Library: Cartographic Items Maps 57540.(7.); Probsthain's Oriental Catalogue, no. VII (London, 1905), no. 322 (p. 13); F. S. Aijazuddin, Rare

maps of Pakistan (2000), p. xiv. Cf. R.H. Phillimore, Historical Records of the Survey of India, vol. IV (Dehra Dun, 1958), pp. 219, 240, 246, 282, 290, 292, 360, 389, 417, 446.

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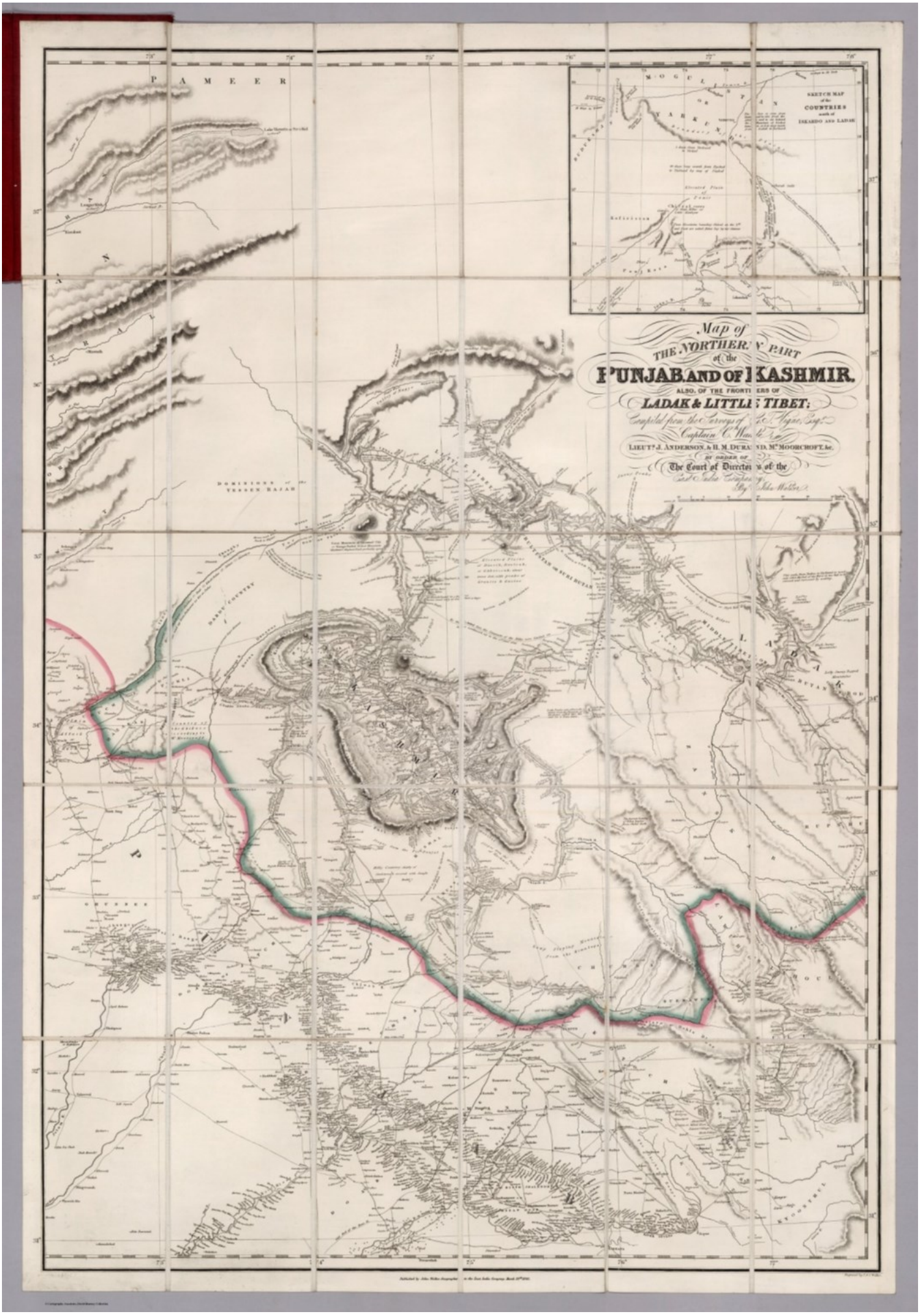

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